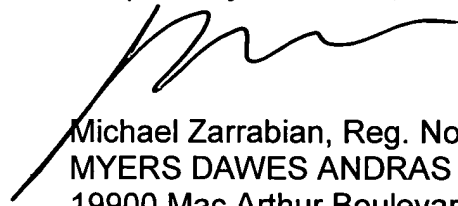


Applicant elects to continue prosecution of the claims identified in Group I, i.e., claims 1-20, drawn to a ball valve apparatus, classified in class 251, subclass 209. Applicant further elects specie 5 (a spherical valve with slot which is metal) listed by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the nonelected claims in one or more divisional applications.

Early examination and favorable action on the elected claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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